

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-50 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 -27 have previously been withdrawn from consideration without prejudice. Claims 1-27 have now been cancelled without prejudice to being resubmitted in a continuation application. Claims 28-33, 49 and 50 have been rejected. Claims 28-33, 49 and 50 have been cancelled without prejudice to being resubmitted in a continuation application. Claim 34 has been objected to. Claim 34 has been amended per the Examiner's recommendation. Claims 35 – 48 have been allowed.

35 U.S.C. section 102(b)

Claims 28, 29, 32, 49 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. section 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,619,865 to Keem et al. ("Keem et al."). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, applicants have cancelled claims 28, 29, 32, 49 and 50 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to submit these claims in a continuation application.

35 U.S.C. section 103(a)

Claims 30, 31, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keem et al. The Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, applicants have cancelled claims 30, 31, and 33 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to submit these claims in a continuation application.

Claims 28, 29, 30, 49, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto et al. (US Patent 5,538,816). The Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, applicants have cancelled claims 28, 29, 30, 49 and 50 without

prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to submit these claims in a continuation application.

Claims 28, 30, 31, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garg et al. (US Patent No. 4,855,188). The Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, applicants have cancelled claims 28, 30, 31, and 32 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to submit these claims in a continuation application.

Claim Objections

Claim 34 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner. Claim 34 has been amended to so that it includes all of the limitations of the vase claim and any intervening claims as is now allowable.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner has stated that claims 35-48 are allowable over the prior art of record. The Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner.

Applicants assert that claims 34-48 are now all allowable and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Appl. No. 10/035,683
Amdt. dated
Reply to Office action of January 21, 2004

Patent
14394-0012

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-1329.

Respectfully submitted,

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